

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 03324 071406Z
ACTION AF-10

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E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJ: SAG EXPELS AMERICAN JOURNALIST -- DANIEL DROOZ

FOLLOWING JOHANNESBURG TEL, 1728 DATED JULY 6, 1977, AND SENT
ACTION PRETORIA, INFO CAPE TOWN AND DURBAN, BEING REPEATED
FOR YOU:

QUOTE JOHANNESBURG 1728

USIAC

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJ: SAG EXPELS AMERICAN JOURNALIST -- DANIEL DROOZ

1. JOHANNESBURG-BASED AMERICAN JOURNALIST DANIEL
DROOZ HAS BEEN INFORMED BY LETTER DATED JULY 4 FROM SAG
MINISTRY OF INTERIOR HIS TEMPORARY RESIDENCE PERMIT
WOULD NOT BE RENEWED AND HE AND HIS FAMILY WOULD BE
REQUIRED TO LEAVE RSA BEFORE JULY 15, 1977. DROOZ
ARRIVED IN RSA SEPT 1, 1976 AFTER SERVING SEVERAL
YEARS AS FREE-LANCE JOURNALIST BASED IN ISRAEL. HE
WON CANADIAN JOURNALISM AWARD FOR HIS REPORTING OF
MIDDLE EAST SITUATION FOR "TORONTO STAR" AT ONE POINT
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DURING STINT. IN RSA HE HAS BEEN SERVING AS CORRES-
PONDENT FOR TEL AVIV NEWSPAPER "MAREEV", HAS FILED
REGULARLY VOICED REPORTS FOR CANADIAN BROADCASTING
COMPANY AND HAS BEEN STRINGER FOR TWO US PUBLICATIONS,
"CHICAGO DAILY NEWS" (FROM WHICH PAPER HE HAD MONTHLY
RETAINER UNTIL FEB 77, WHEN, ALLEGEDLY, THERE WAS
"RETRENCHMENT" AND DROOZ WAS CUT OFF. HE HAS CONTINUED

FILING FOR THEM, BEING PAID ACCORDING TO WHAT WAS ACCEPTED), AND "US NEWS & WORLD REPORT". (MAGAZINES ROME-BASED CORRESPONDENT DAVE RICHARDSON CONFIDED TO BPAO MAGAZINE WAS UNHAPPY WITH WHAT DROOZ HAS FILED. ACCORDING TO RICHARDSON, DROOZ LACKS CREDIBILITY). ON ONE OCCASION, WHEN VOA STRINGER BARRY WOOD COVERED MAY UN MAPUTO CONFERENCE, DROOZ FILED A REPORT WHICH WAS AIRED OVER VOA.

2. DROOZ ENTERED RSA ON VISA VALID FOR ONE YEAR. HE RECEIVED TEMPORARY RESIDENCE PERMIT FOR SIX-MONTH PERIOD. PERMIT WAS RENEWED FOR ADDITIONAL THREE-MONTH PERIOD WHICH LAPSED MAY 31. HE APPLIED FOR EXTENSION OF PERMIT MAY 27 AND HAD NO RESPONSE UNTIL MINISTER LETTER OF JULY 4.

3. DROOZ SAYS HIS ONLY BRUSH WITH AUTHORITIES WAS IN OCTOBER WHEN HE WAS ASKED TO REPORT TO ARMY HEADQUARTERS IN PRETORIA HE HAD FILED STORY FOR "MAREEV" ON RSA MILITARY IN WHICH HE HAD GIVEN COST FIGURES FOR "RESHEF" MISSILE BOAT BUILT IN ISRAEL FOR RSA MILITARY. DROOZ CITED "MILITARY SOURCE" FOR FIGURE. ARMY INTELLIGENCE WANTED TO KNOW WHO SOURCE WAS. DROOZ REPLIED IT WAS RSA GENERAL WHO CITED FIGURE AS "PRICE FOR CORVETTE WITH GABRIEL MISSILES" DURING SPEECH. DROOZ AFTER CONSULTING "JANE'S FIGHTING SHIPS" CONFIRMED THAT SOUTH AFRICAN CORVETTE WAS IN FACT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ISRAELI RESHEF.

4. DROOZ HAS WRITTEN LETTER OF APPEAL WHICH ASKS MINISTRY FOR MORE TIME TO PREPARE TO LEAVE. HE HAS GERMAN WIFE AND SON RESIDING WITH HIM. LETTER ALSO ASKS REASONS FOR MINISTRY REFUSAL TO EXTEND WORK PERMIT.

5. AMCONGEN ISSUED WIFE AND SON LIMITED VALIDITY TOURIST VISAS FOR ENTRY INTO US.

6. NEWLY-FORMED FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS ASSOCIATION WEIGHED IN ON DROOZ SIDE JULY 5 WITH POLITE BUT FIRM TELEGRAM ADDRESSED TO SECRETARY OF INFORMATION WHICH "EXPRESSED CONCERN OF ASSOCIATION OVER "APPARENT ARBITRARY MOVE ON PART OF SAG". TELEGRAM ASKS FOR MORE TIME SO THAT DROOZ MAY ORGANIZE HIS MOVE AND REQUESTS THAT EITHER DROOZ BE INFORMED OF THE REASONS FOR THIS DECISION, OR THAT THE ASSOCIATION "IN CONFIDENCE" BE INFORMED.

COMMENT: RESIDENT FOREIGN JOURNALISTS SPECULATING ON REASONS FOR DROOZ BEING SINGLED OUT FOR THIS TREATMENT. THERE HAVE BEEN HINTS THAT SAG WAS CONSIDERING CRACKING DOWN ON PRESS CORPS,

AND BY PICKING-OFF DROOZ THEY PROBABLY SELECTED THE SOFTEST
TARGET AMONG THE RESIDENT AMERICANS. (THEY ARE HOLDING OFF
REPORTING EXPULSION PENDING A RESPONSE TO DROOZ APPEAL).
UNLESS SAG REVERSES DECISION OR GIVES DROOZ MORE TIME TO PACK
HIS THINGS, HEAVY PRESS PLAY BY DROOZ' COLLEAGUES AMONG FOREIGN
PRESS CORPS CAN BE EXPECTED. IN US, COMING HARD ON HEELS
OF TOTH AFFAIR IN USSR, AMERICAN READERS LIKELY TO MAKE SOME
COMPARISONS ABOUT ARBITRARY GOVERNMENTS. KIRBY UNQUOTE
BOWDLER

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
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